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Message Text

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44
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS
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FOLLOWING REPEAT KINSHASA 10155 SENT ACTION SECSTATE 03 DEC 76

QUOTE UNCLAS KINSHASA 10155

FOR AF/C

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETEL CG EFIN
SUBJECT: DOMSAT

REF: KINSHASA 10117

1. THE FOLLOWING PROVIDES INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF TWO ELIMA ARTICLES REFERRED TO IN REFTEL.

2. THE FIRST ARTICLE IS TITLED "ZAIRE WILL BE PROVIDED A SPATIAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK."
BEGIN QUOTE. IN ACCORDANCE WITH A FRENCH GOVERNMENT CREDIT AND A PRIVATE GUARANTEED CREDIT, WHICH HAD BEEN DECIDED UPON IN AUGUST 1975 DURING THE VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FRANCE TO ZAIRE, ZAIRE HAS RECENTLY CHOSEN THE FRENCH COMPANY "THOMPSON TSF" TO IMPLEMENT AN IMMENSE SPATIAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM WHICH WILL
COST 350 MILLION FF.
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QUOTE THE CONTRACT CALLS FOR THE INSTALLATION IN THREE YEARS OF

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TWELVE SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS STATIONS, SIXTEEN TELEVISION
STATIONS AS WELL AS TELEPHONE, TELEVISION AND TELEGRAPH
EQUIPMENT.
QUOTE EIGHT EARTH SATELLITE STATIONS WILL BE BUILT, ONE EACH
IN THE PRINCIPAL CITIES OF EACH REGION AND THE FOUR OTHERS
IN SUB-REGIONS. LATER ON, THE NUMBER OF STATIONS WILL BE
INCREASED TO FIFTEEN, THEN TO TWENTY-TWO OR TWENTY-FOUR.
IT IS ONLY AT THIS STAGE THAT THE NATIONAL TERRITORY WILL
BE COMPLETELY COVERED. THROUGH A LIAISON WITH THE INTELSAT
SATELLITE, WHICH IS IN A STATIONARY POSITION ABOVE THE
ATLANTIC OCEAN, EACH STATION WILL RECEIVE TELEVISION,
TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS ORIGINATING IN
KINSHASA.
QUOTE IN CASE OF BREAKDOWN OF ONE OF THE REFLECTORS OF THE
ATLANTIC OCEAN INTELSAT SATELLITE, THE STATIONS WILL AUTOMATICALLY
BE PUT IN CONTACT WITH THE INTELSAT SATELLITE OVER THE INDIAN
OCEAN. ZAIRE WILL BECOME THE SECOND AFRICAN COUNTRY (AFTER
ALGERIA) TO HAVE AN ULTRA-MODERN COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND
THE FIFTH IN THE WORLD AFTER THE UNITED STATES, CANADA,
BRAZIL AND ALGERIA.
QUOTE IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE INCOME FROM TELEPHONE AND
TELEGRAPH OPERATIONS WILL PROVIDE THE FUNDS NECESSARY TO
PAY OFF THE FRENCH LOAN. END QUOTE

3. THE SECOND PIECE IS AN EDITORIAL TITLED "DEVELOPMENT OF
THE TERRITORY: A GOOD PROSPECT."
BEGIN QUOTE. IN THREE YEARS ZAIRE WILL HAVE SPATIAL TELE-
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM COMPOSED OF TWELVE SATELLITE COMMUNI-
CATION STATIONS, SIXTEEN TELEVISION STATIONS AND TELEPHONE
AND TELEGRAPH EQUIPMENT. THIS IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH A POLICY
OF OPENNESS AND OF FRANK DIALOG WHICH UNDERPINS OUR RESPECT
AND ATTACHMENT TO THE IDEALS OF HUMAN INTERACTION.
QUOTE IN FACT, AS A RESULT OF THE GOOD REPUTATION OF THE SECOND
REPUBLIC BEYOND ITS OWN NATIONAL BOUNDERIES, ZAIRE WILL HAVE AN
ULTRA-MODERN COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND WILL BE AMONG THE
BEST EQUIPPED COUNTRIES IN THIS REGARD.
QUOTE THE PRESIDENT-FOUNDER CONSTANTLY EMPHASIZES THAT KINSHASA
IS NOT ZAIRE. THIS BEING THE CASE, THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
CAPITAL CITY MUST NOT OPERATE TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE OTHER
PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. THE VIEW OF THE GUIDE MOBUTU SESE SEKO
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IS THAT THE REGIONS SHOULD PROGRESS AT THE SAME PACE AS THE
CAPITAL, THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTION OF EARTH STATIONS AT THE
MAIN CITES OF EACH REGION AND SUB-REGION.
QUOTE FAR FROM BEING AN ORDINARY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, THIS
PROJECT HAS GREAT SIGNIFICANCE. IT WILL PUT IN CONCRETE TERMS,
AS WE HAVE MENTIONED ABOVE, THE PRESIDENT FOUNDER'S CONCERN
TO SEE THE INTERIOR OF THE COUNTRY DEVELOP AT THE SAME RATE
AS KINSHASA AND WILL TESTIFY TO THE CONCERN OF THE MAN OF

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NOVEMBER 24 TO SEE THAT ALL HIS FELLOW CITIZENS ENJOY IN
EQUAL PORTIONS THE BENEFITS OF THE REVOLUTION.
QUOTE PRESENTLY, THE VOICE OF ZAIRE CANNOT SATISFY THE COUNTRY'S
NEEDS FOR INFORMATION. THE NATIONAL TERRITORY IS ONLY PARTIALLY
SERVED. ONLY KINSHASA AND NEIGHBORING AREAS CAN RECEIVE ORDINARY
TELEVISION PROGRAMS AND LEARN OF WORLD EVENTS THROUGH THE N'SELE
EARTH STATION. LUBUMBASHI AND LIKASA DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENTLY
ADEQUATE SYSTEMS AND THEIR STATIONS HAVE A VERY LIMITED
CAPACITY.
QUOTE THROUGH THE VOICE OF ZAIRE, THE MESSAGE OF THE REVOLUTION
WILL REACH AUDIENCES IN THE MOST REMOTE PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.
THE IMPROVED CAPACITY TO TRANSMIT INFORMATION WILL CERTAINLY
EXPAND EDUCATIONAL HORIZONS AND WILL RAISE THE CONSCIOUSNESS
OF THE MASSES. PICTURES WILL HAVE A GREATER EFFECT THAN WORDS.
THE REVOLUTION WILL BE STRENGTHENED BY PUTTING THE MEANS OF
COMMUNICATION AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE LABORING MASSES.
QUOTE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS LARGE SPATIAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS
SYSTEM, THOUGH VER EXPENSIVE, HAS THE ADVANTAGE OF GIVING TO THE
ZAIRIAN, WHEREVER HE IS LOCATED, A CULTURE BY INCREASING THE
CONTRIBUTIONS OF OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY AS WELL AS OF
FOREIGN COUNTRIES. THE MILITANT, THROUGH DAILY INSTRUCTION,
WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND HIS ROLE IN A DEVELOPING SOCIETY.
END QUOTE
CUTLER

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